Claims 1-22 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 23-44 are added. The following is the status of the above-captioned application as amended.

Claims 1-22 (canceled)

CLAIMS

Claim 23 (New). A method of screening recombinant host cells comprising a gene library for a protein secreting host cell, the method comprising screening for activity of a secretion stress inducible promoter.

Claim 24 (New). The method of claim 23 comprising the steps of:

(i) providing a recombinant host cell comprising the secretion stress inducible promoter operably linked to a nucleic acid sequence encoding a reporter protein or a regulator protein;

(ii) introducing the gene library into the host cell of (i);

(iii) culturing the host cells obtained in (ii) under conditions promoting expression of the gene library; and

(iv) selecting a host cell which expresses the reporter protein or regulator protein.

Claim 25 (New). The method of claim 24, wherein the regulator protein controls the expression of the reporter gene.

Claim 26 (New). The method of claim 25, wherein the regulator protein is an activator or repressor of the expression of the reporter protein.

Claim 27 (New). The method of claim 23, wherein the host cell is selected from bacterial cells.

Claim 28 (New). The method of claim 27, wherein the host cells belong to a strain selected from the group consisting of the species *Bacillus alkalophilus*, *Bacillus agaradhaerens, Bacillus amyloliquefaciens*, *Bacillus brevis*, *Bacillus clausii, Bacillus circulans*, *Bacillus coagulans*, *Bacillus lautus*, *Bacillus lentus*, *Bacillus licheniformis*, *Bacillus megaterium*, *Bacillus stearothermophilus*, *Bacillus subtilis*, *Bacillus thuringiensis*, *Streptomyces lividans, Streptomyces murinus, Escherichia coli, Lactococcus lactis,* and *Pseudomonas putida.*

Claim 29 (New). The method of claim 23, wherein the secretion stress inducible promoter is comprised by the nucleic acids 1-999 of SEQ ID NO.:1.

Claim 30 (New). The method of claim 23, wherein the secretion stress inducible promoter comprises the nucleic acids 1-999 of SEQ ID NO.:1.

Claim 31 (New). The method of claim 23, wherein the secretion stress inducible promoter consists of the nucleic acids 1-999 of SEQ ID NO.:1.

Claim 32 (New). The method of claim 23, wherein the secretion stress inducible promoter in its normal position regulates a gene encoded protein that is a functional homolog of the gene encoded protein regulated by the promoter sequence comprised by nucleic acids 1-999 of SEQ ID NO.:1.

Claim 33 (New). The method of claim 23, wherein the secretion stress inducible promoter in its normal position is the promoter linked to a gene encoding a polypeptide which has at least 70% identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO.:2.

Claim 34 (New). The method of claim 23, wherein the secretion stress inducible promoter is the promoter linked to a gene encoding a polypeptide which has at least 80% identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO.:2.

Claim 35 (New). The method of claim 23, wherein the secretion stress inducible promoter is comprised by the repeated octameric motif of SEQ ID NO.: 3.

Claim 36 (New). The method of claim 23, wherein the secretion stress inducible promoter comprises the repeated octameric motif of SEQ ID NO.: 3.

Claim 37 (New). The method of claim 23, wherein the secretion stress inducible promoter is identical to the octameric motif of SEQ ID NO.: 3.

Claim 38 (New). The method of claim 24, wherein the reporter protein is 2-fold over expressed in a secretion stressed cell compared to a non secretion stressed cell.

Claim 39 (New). The method of claim 24, wherein the reporter protein is selected from the group consisting of fluorescent protein, antibiotic markers, and substrate converting enzymes.

Claim 40 (New). The method of claim 23, wherein the secretion stress inducible promoter is comprised by nucleic acids 1-999 of SEQ ID NO.:1, and the host cell further comprises an IPTG-inducible promoter operably linked to a nucleic acid sequence encoding the amino acids 1 to 449 of SEQ ID NO:2.

Claim 41 (New). The method of claim 23, wherein the secretion stress inducible promoter comprises nucleic acids 1-999 of SEQ ID NO.:1, and the host cell further comprises a IPTG-inducible promoter operably linked to a nucleic acid sequence encoding the amino acids 1 to 449 of SEQ ID NO:2.

Claim 42 (New). The method of claim 23, wherein the secretion stress inducible promoter consists of nucleic acids 1-999 of SEQ ID NO.:1, and the host cell further comprises a IPTG-inducible promoter operably linked to a nucleic acid sequence encoding the the amino acids 1 to 449 of SEQ ID NO:2.

Claim 43 (New). The method of claim 24, wherein the protein secreted by the host cell comprises an enzyme.

Claim 44 (New). The method of claim 43, wherein the enzyme is selected from the group consisting of proteases, cellulases (endoglucanases), beta-glucanases, hemicellulases, lipases, peroxidases, laccases, alfa-amylases, glucoamylases, cutinases, pectinases, reductases, oxidases, phenoloxidases, ligninases, pullulanases, pectate lyases, xyloglucanases, xylanases, pectin acetyl esterases, polygalacturonases, rhamnogalacturonases, pectin lyases, mannanases, pectin methylesterases, cello-biohydrolases, transglutaminases and phytases.